

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04830 132115Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 PM-05 L-03 EB-08 CA-01
SCS-06 H-02 INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15
TRSE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 INT-05
NSCE-00 DODE-00 HA-05 /094 W
-----124552 132121Z /15

O 132030Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9606
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS, CZ

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 4830

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, PLOS, EFIS, ES
SUBJ: SEIZURE OF U.S. TUNA FISH BOAT BY EL SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES

1. MARCO RADOVCIC, CAPTAIN OF THE U.S. REGISTERED TUNA BOAT
CONTERBIANCO, CALLED TH EMBASSY AT 11:30 ON SEPTEMBER 13 TO
REPORT THAT HIS BOAT IS BEING HELD BY THE COMMANDANT OF THE
SALVADORAN PORT OF LA LIBERTAD UNDER A FINE OF \$2,000. THE
CONTERBIANCO IS REGISTERED AT SAN DIEGO UNDER CERTIFICATE
NO. 37, REGISTRATION NO 262453. HOME PORT IS LOS ANGELES
(SAN PEDRO). CALL SIGN IS WX8008. THE CREW NUMBER 10.
THE ADDRESS OF THE SHIP OWNER IN SAN PEDRO IS: MOSICH-VILICICH
CORP., 4205 MIRALETE DR., RANOHO, PALOS VERDES,
CALIF. 90274.

2. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTERBIANCO WAS
PROCEEDING IN A SOUTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION TOWARD COSTA RICA
APPROXIMATELY 70 MILES OFF THE EL SALVADORAN COAST. AT
ABOUT 1730 ON SEPT 13, DURING A HEAVY RAIN STORM
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AND WITH A DEFECTIVE RADAR, THE CAPTAIN STOPPED THE BOAT
AND LET IT DRIFT, AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT, A SALVADORAN LAUNCH
FIRED SHOTS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CONTERBIANCO AND
BOARDED IT. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC STATED THAT HE EXPLAINED TO
THE EL SALVADORAN OFFICIALS THAT HIS ENGINE WAS STOPPED AND
THAT HE WAS JUST DRIFTING. HE STATED THAT HE ASKED THE
SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES TO SEND A QUALIFIED PERSON TO

EXMAINE THE ENGINE WHICH WOULD SHOW THAT IT HAD BEEN OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS.

3. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC WENT ON TO EXPALIN THAT THE SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES TOOK HIMSELF AND ONE CREW MEMBER ON THE LAUNCH AND INSTRUCTED THAT THE CONTERBIANCO PROCEED TO THE PORT OF LA LIBERTAD.

4. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC STATED THAT LATER THAT MORNING, THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINA TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PAY A \$5,000 FINE. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC STATED THAT HE ASKED THE REASON FOR THE FINE, AND WAS TOLD THAT THE FINE WAS FOR HAVING HIS RUNNING LIGHTS OFF. HE THEN STATED THATTHE FINE WAS REDUCED TO \$2,000.

5. THE ECONOMIC OFFICER THEN SPOKE WITH THE COMMANDANT OF THE PORT. THE COMMANDANT EXPLAINED THAT A BOAT WITH AN AMERICAN FLAG HAS BEEN CAPTURED AT 1 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 13 IN WATERS 70 MILES OFF THE COAST OF EL SALVADOR. THE ECONOMIC OFFICER ASKED WHY THE BOAT WAS STOPPED. THE COMMANDANT EXPLAINED THAT THE BOAT WAS FISHING. IN ANSWERTO THE ECONOMIC OFFICER'S QUESTION: HOW THE GOES AUTHORITIES KNEW THE BOAT WAS FISHING, THE COMMANDANT EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTERBIANCO'S FISHING EQUIPMENT WAS IN THE WATER. THE COMMANDANT EXPLAINED THAT THE CAPTAIN AND THE CREW ARE NOT UNDER ARREST BUT THAT THE BOAT IS BEING DETAINED
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PENDING PAYMENT OF A \$2,00 FINE.

6. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC DENIED THAT HIS VESSEL WAS FISHING. HE STATED THAT NETS UNDER A LARGE SKIFF ON HIS DECK ARE DRY AND THAT CABLES ON A WINCH WERE OILED TWO WEEKS AGO AND WOULD SHOW THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IN THE WATER SINCE. CAPTAIN RADOVCIC STATED THAT HE COULD PROBABLY RAISE THE \$2,000 BY WIRING THE CANNERY THEY FISH FOR OR THROUGH A SHIP'S BROKER IN EL SALVADOR. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, HE IS RELUCTANT TO PAY THE \$2,000 FINE BASED UPON PRINCIPLE OF A 12 MILE ZONE FOR MIGRATORY FISH AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOT FISHING.

7. EMBASSY WILL CONTACT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE EARLY RELEASE, WITHOUT FINE, IF POSSIBLE.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TUNA, SHIP DETENTION, CONTERBIANCO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS04830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D780373-0044
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: CASC, PLOS, EFIS, ES, US, (RADOVCIC, MARCO)
To: STATE
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